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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 /070 W
---------- 109106 /46
R 231540Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4717
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 2380

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, CA
SUBJECT: ONTARIO ESTABLISHES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON QUEBEC SITUATION

REF: TORONTO 2368

1. THE TORONTO STAR CORRESPONDENT COVERING THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT, JONATHAN MANTHORPE, ANNOUNCED IN HIS DECEMBER 22 COLUMN "DAVIS GOES TO BAT FOR CONFEDERATION" THAT ONTARIO PREMIER DAVIS IS ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS ONTARIO FACES NOW THAT THE SEPARATIST PARTI QUEBECOIS IN POWER IN QUEBEC. MANTHORPE STATED THAT THE COMMITTEE IS BEING ESTABLISHED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF YORK UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT IAN MACDONALD, FORMER DEPUTY MINISTEROF TREASURY, ECONOMICS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND CHAIRMAN FROM 1965 TO 1971 OF THE ONTARIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CONFEDERATION E TABLISHED BY FORMER PREMIER JOHN ROBARTS. THE COLUMN CONTINUED THAT MANTHORPE'S CONTACTS STATE THAT THE NEW COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO LOOK SPECIFICALLY AT HOW ONTARIO CAN WORK TO STOP QUEBEC SEPARATION AND TO STUDY WESTERN ALIENATION AND THE DANGER THIS POSES.

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WM WHILE DAVIS" HAS PLAYED A VERY COOL, UNEMOTIONAL ROLE" TO DATE, MANTHORPE WROTE THAT HE HAS BEEN LOUDLY CRITICIZED BY LIBERAL LEADER SMITH WHO HAS BOTH CALLED UPON DAVIS TO GO TO QUEBEC AND "SHOW THEM THAT WE WANT TTEM" AND
TO INCREASE
GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO ONTARIO'S HALF MILLION FRENCH-SPEAKING

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PEOPLE.
(THE STAR'S DECEMBER 22 EDITORIAL "CANADIANS SPEAK UP" REFRRED TO NEW BRUNSWICK PREMIER HATFIELD'S ACCEPTANCE OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT IN QUEBEC AT WHICH HE WILL " DEFEND CANADA AGAINST THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT" AND URGED PREMIER DAVIS" TO FOLLOW HATFIELD'S EXAMPLE AND SPEAK FOR ONTARIO AS THE PROVINCE WHICH HAS THE CLOSEST RELATIONSHIP WITH QUEBEC.")

3. WHILE MANTHORPE COMMENTED THAT THE COMMITTEE IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP ON A LONG ROAD TO MAKE ONTARIO A CENTRAL PARTY IN TTE DISCUSSIONS OF QUEBEC'S FUTURE, HE OBSERVED THAT "NEITHER TRUDEAU NOR LEVESQUE SEEM TO HAVE ANY DESIRE TO LET DAVIS INTO THE GAME. "LEVESQUE DOESN'T WANT HIM BECAUSE IF DAVIS PLAYS A POWERFUL PRO-CONFEDERATION ROLE IT MAY LESSEN THE QUEBEC PREMIER'S CHANCES OF WINNING A REFERENDUM ON SEPARATION AND TRUDEAU DOESN'T WANT HIM BECAUSE IT IS NOT IN THE NATURE OF THE PRIME MINI TER TO WANT ANYONE ELSE PLAYING IN HIS SANDBOX."
DIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, COMMITTEES, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TORONT02380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760471-0361
From: TORONTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761215/aaaaamtz.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TORONTO 2368, 77 TORONTO 2368
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <20 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ONTARIO ESTABLISHES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON QUEBEC SITUATION
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, CA
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
OTTAWA
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006